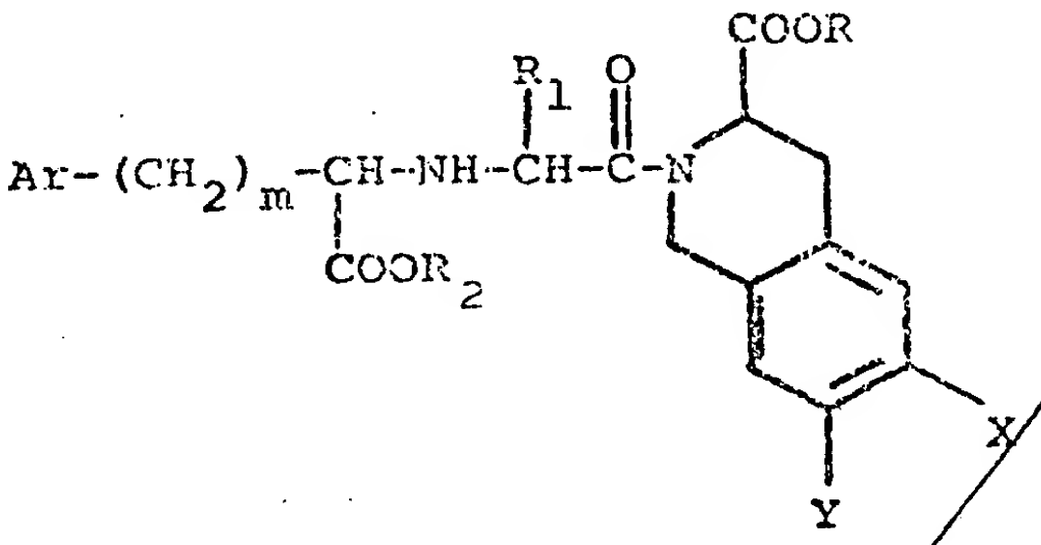
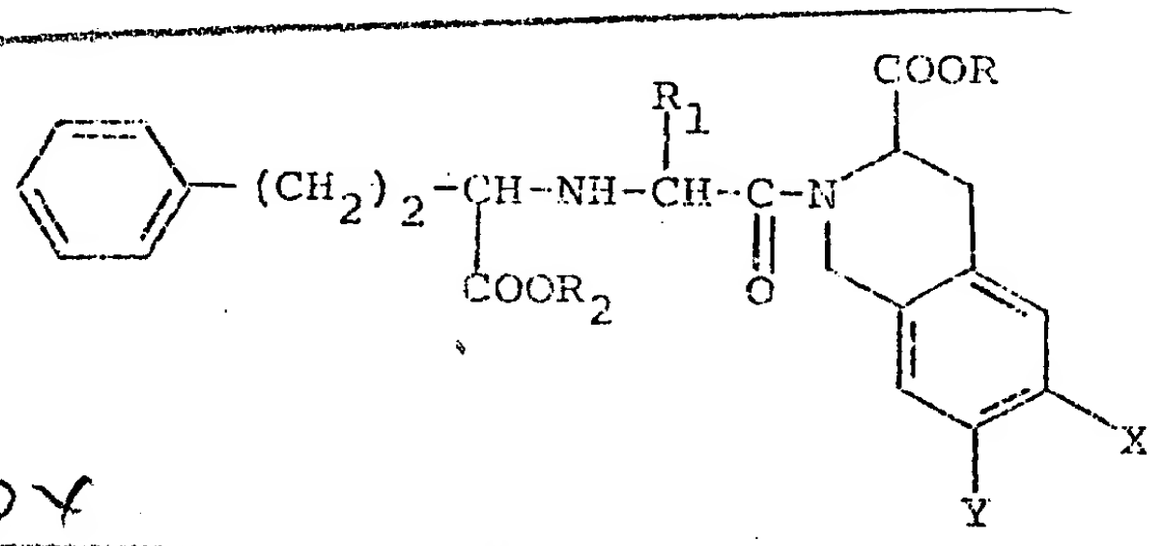
WE CLAIM:

1. A substituted acyl derivative of 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid having the formula



where R is hydrogen, lower alkyl or aralkyl; R_1 is hydrogen, lower alkyl, or benzyl; R_2 is hydrogen, or lower alkyl and Ar is phenyl, or substituted phenyl having 1 or 2 substituents selected from the group consisting of fluorine, chlorine, bromine, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxy or amino; X and Y are independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkylthio, lower alkylsulfinyl, lower alkylsulfonyl, hydroxy, or X and Y together are methylendioxy; and m is 0 to 3; wherein lower alkyl and lower alkoxy contain 1 to 4 straight or branched carbon atoms and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. A substituted acyl ~~derivative~~ compound of 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid according to claim 1 having the formula



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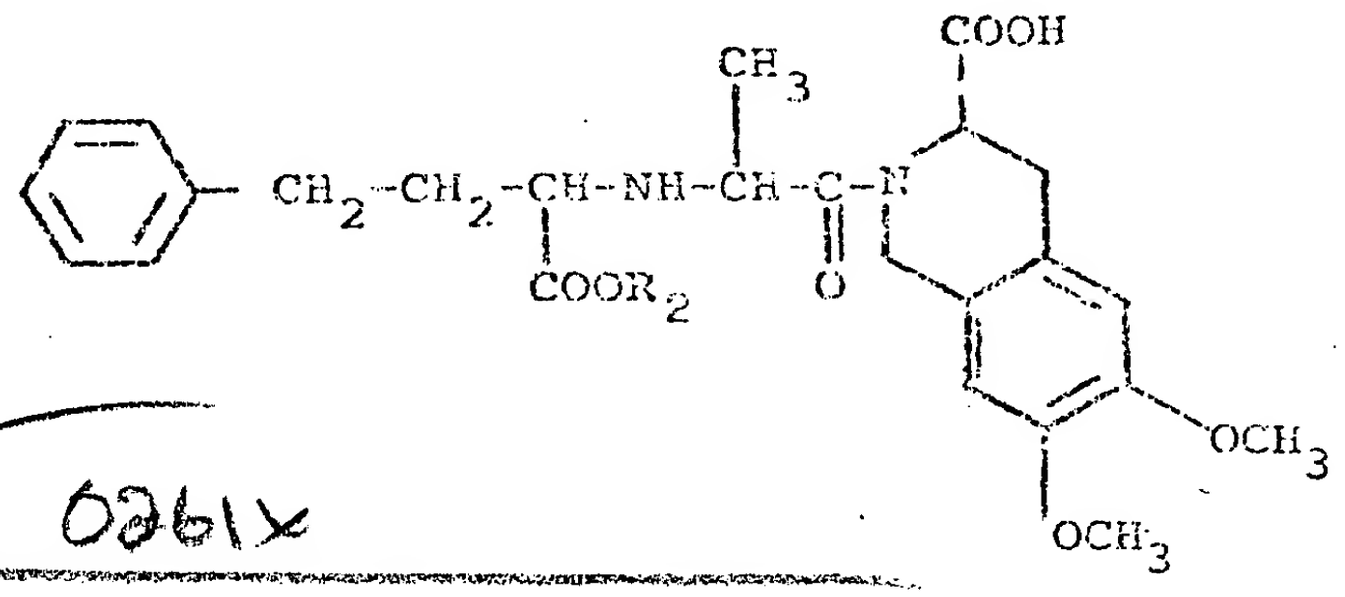
where R is hydrogen, t-butyl, or benzyl; R_1 is hydrogen or lower alkyl; R_2 is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl; X and Y are independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy or lower alkoxy; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

3. A substituted acyl ~~derivative~~ compound of 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid according to claim 2 having the formula



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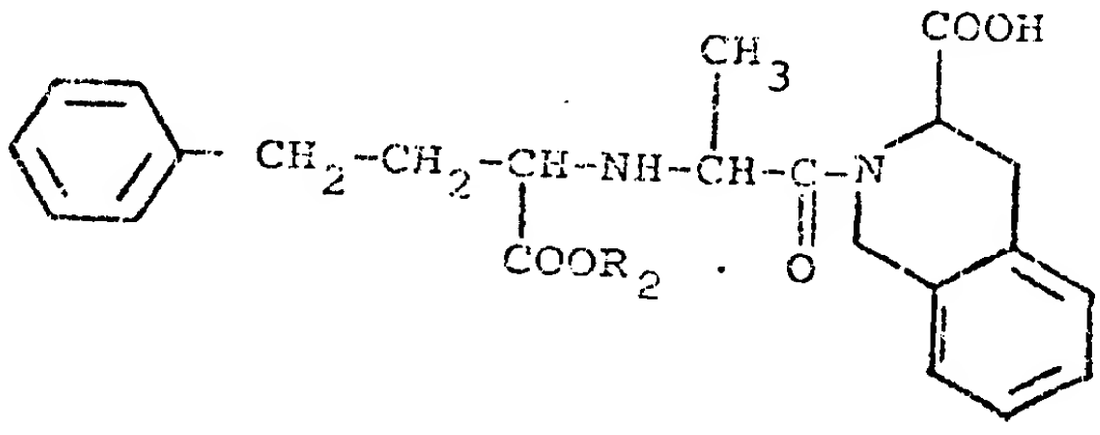
where R_2 is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

4. A substituted acyl ~~derivative~~ compound of 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid according to claim 2 having the formula



where R_2 is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

5. The compound according to Claim 2 which is 2-[2-[[1-(ethoxycarbonyl)-3-phenylpropyl]amino]-1-oxopropyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-6,7-dimethoxy-3-isoquinolinecarboxylic acid, phenylmethyl ester, maleate (S,S,S).

6. The compound according to Claim 2 which is 2-[2-[[1-(ethoxycarbonyl)-3-phenylpropyl]amino]-1-oxopropyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-3-isoquinoline-carboxylic acid, phenylmethyl ester, maleate (S,S,S).

7. The compound according to Claim 2 which is 2-[2-[[1-(ethoxycarbonyl)-3-phenylpropyl]amino]-1-oxopropyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-3-isoquinoline-carboxylic acid, 1,1-dimethylethyl ester, (S,S,S).

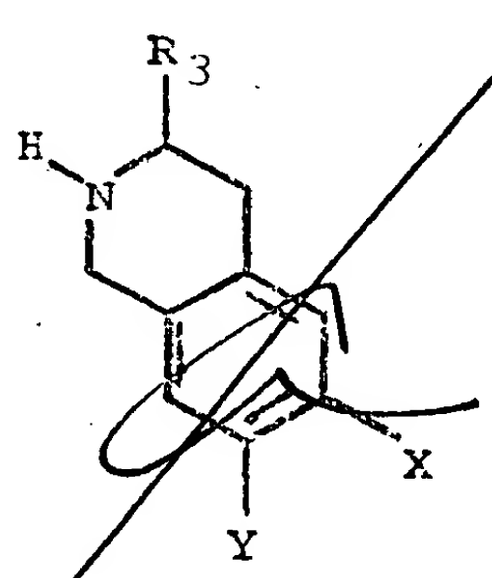
8. The compound according to Claim 3 which is 2-[2-[[1-(ethoxycarbonyl)-3-phenylpropyl]amino]-1-oxopropyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-6,7-dimethoxy-3-isoquinolinecarboxylic acid, hydrochloride, hydrate, (S,S,S).

9. The compound according to Claim 3 which is 2-[2-[(1-(carboxy-3-phenylpropyl)amino]-1-oxopropyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-6,7-dimethoxy-3-isoquinolinecarboxylic acid, hydrochloride, hydrate (S,S,S).

10. The compound according to Claim 4 which is 2-[2-[[1-(ethoxycarbonyl)-3-phenylpropyl]amino]-1-oxopropyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-3-isoquinoline-carboxylic acid, hydrochloride, hydrate (S,S,S).

11. The compound according to Claim 4 which is 2-[2-[(1-carboxy-3-phenylpropyl)amino]-1-oxopropyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-3-isoquinolinecarboxylic acid, hydrochloride, hemihydrate (S,S,S).

12. A process for the production of a substituted acyl derivative of 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-3-isoquinoline carboxylic acid compound according to Claim 1 which comprises peptide coupling of a suitably substituted 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-3-isoquinoline carboxylate of formula



with an N-substituted amino acid of the formula

$$Ar(CH_2)_m CHCOOR_2$$
$$|$$
$$NHCHCO_2H$$
$$|$$
$$R_1$$

where R_1, R_2, Ar, X, Y, and m are as defined in Claim 1 and R_3 is a suitably blocked carboxylic acid group, and then removing the protective group.

13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a substituted acyl derivative of a 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

14. A method of treating hypertension by administering an effective amount of a substituted acyl derivative of 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.